

**ABSTRACT****A CONTROL APPARATUS**

A control apparatus (34) is provided for enabling a user to control by spoken commands a function of a processor-controlled machine (3a) couplable to speech processing apparatus. The control apparatus is configured to provide:

a client module (343) for receiving dialog interpretable instructions derived from speech data processed by the speech processing apparatus;

a dialog communication arrangement (340,342a, 340) for interpreting received dialog interpretable instructions using a dialog compatible with the processor-controlled machine (3a) and for communicating with the processor-controlled machine (3a) using the dialog to enable information to be provided to the user in response to received dialog interpretable instructions, thereby enabling a dialog to be conducted with the user;

a dialog determiner (342) for determining from information provided by the processor-controlled machine (3a) the dialog to be used with that processor-controlled machine; and

a machine communicator (341) communicating with the processor-controlled machine to cause the processor-controlled machine to carry out a function in accordance with the dialog with the user.

**FIG 3**